

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing interruptions to a network user, the interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network, the network user having a permanent reception list the method comprising:

modifying a temporary reception list in response to one of a retrospective activity and a prospective activity, the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating at least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption;

receiving an interruption from one of the senders on the network;

presenting the interruption to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders on the network.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the temporary reception list comprises adding an entry to the temporary reception list upon a determination the time until the occurrence of the prospective activity is less than a predetermined time.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the temporary reception list comprises removing an entry from the temporary reception list upon a determination that the age of the retrospective activity exceeds a predetermined time.

13. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for modifying a temporary reception list further comprises program code for adding an entry to the temporary reception list upon a determination that the time since the occurrence of the retrospective activity is less than a predetermined time.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for modifying a temporary reception list further comprises program code for removing an entry from the temporary reception list upon a determination that the age of the retrospective activity exceeds a predetermined time.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for presenting the interruption further comprises:

- program code for receiving an urgency value associated with the interruption;
- program code for comparing the urgency value with an interruption threshold value defined by the network user; and
- program code for presenting the interruption to the network user if the urgency value exceeds the threshold value.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:

- program code for receiving a user status request from a status requestor;
- program code for generating a generic status message if the temporary reception list and the permanent reception list do not include an entry associated with the status requestor; and

a processor executing a network user communications program to manage interruptions to a network user, the interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network, wherein each interruption is presented to the network user on the display screen if one of a permanent reception list and a temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the respective sender the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating at least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption.

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing interruptions to a network user, the interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network, the network user having a permanent reception list, the apparatus comprising:

means for modifying a temporary reception list in response to one of a retrospective activity and a prospective activity;

means for receiving an interruption from one of the senders on the network;

means for presenting the interruption to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders on the network, the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating at least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the means for modifying the temporary reception list comprises means for adding an entry to the temporary reception list upon a determination the time until the occurrence of the prospective activity is less than a predetermined time.

comprising at least one of a portion of an initial message from the one of the senders and an identification of the one of the senders.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 further comprising means for providing expanded information for the one of the senders to the network user in response to a user request.